

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05287 251428Z

ACTION TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9942

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 05287

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CCC-3

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL: AGENDA ITEMS OF INTEREST  
TO U.S. AT NAIROBI MEETING, JUNE 7-16

1. JAMES B. CLAWSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, CCC, HAS  
PASSED TO US OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE FORTH-  
COMING NAIROBI MEETING OF CCC. HIS VIEWS ARE OF PARTICULAR  
INTEREST TO FLETCHER POTTER, JR., DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
OPERATIONS, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE.

2. CLAWSON, PREVIOUSLY A U.S. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
OF TREASURY, MAKES THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ON HOW HE  
THINKS THE U.S. SHOULD APPROACH CERTAIN AGENDA ITEMS:

TECHNICAL MATTERS

6. ASC REPORT - PROPOSAL TO STUDY WORKING METHODS AND  
EXTEND LIFE OF COMMITTEE DESERVES SUPPORT.

(7) REPORT OF COMPUTER WORKING PARTY - GERMAN DELEGATION  
WILL RAISE QUESTION WHETHER WORKING PARTY SHOULD BE  
ABOLISHED. U.S. SHOULD REVIEW RAPPAPORT SUGGESTIONS FOR  
NEW WORKING METHODS AND SUBJECTS, WITH A VIEW OF CONTINUING  
THE PARTY IN DIFFERENT FORM WITH DIFFERENT EMPHASIS.

(10) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - SECRETARIAT PAPER AND REPORT  
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05287 251428Z

TOO BLAND. FIRST DRAFT WAS COMPLETELY NEGATIVE TO ANY NEW  
PROPOSALS, BUT CLOWSON WAS ABLE TO CHANGE IT ENOUGH TO ALLOW  
FOR DISCUSSION. HE HOPES THE U. S. TAKES A VERY POSITIVE  
POSITION, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR AN INCREASE IN RESOURCES IF  
NECESSARY. HE ALSO RECOMMENDS COMBINING TRAINING AND TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT, AS THE CURRENT ORGANIZATION  
IS UNWORKABLE.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

(2) REPORT OF SECRETARY GENERAL - WILL DISCUSS THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL, LAYING EMPHASIS ON THE SPECTRE OF INCREASED COSTS. U.S. WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER FUTURE INCREASES IN CONTRIBUTIONS IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS. (NOTE: CLAWSON ADVISES AVOIDANCE OF THE WORD "OPERATIONAL", A BUZZ WORD WHICH GUARANTEES A NEGATIVE REACTION. U.S PROPOSALS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ARE BOTH THOUGHT TO BE "OPERATIONAL".)

(4) FINANCE COMMITTEE - SECGEN PLANS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ATTITUDES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ARGUING THAT THE COUNCIL AND OTHER COMMITTEES SET WORK PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SHOULDN'T THEN CUT BUDGET. THE STAFF COMMITTEE WILL COMPLAIN ABOUT RETROACTIVE PAY RAISE DATE. QUESTION OF NEW CHAIRMEN AND NEW DELEGATES WILL BE RAISED.

3. CLAWSON HAS BEEN ASKED BY SECGEN ANNEZ TO REPORT TO THE MEETING ON THE TRADE DOCUMENTATION FACILITATION STUDY. IN HIS REPORT CLAWSON PLANS TO SUPPORT THE U.S. PAPER ON THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL; HE HOPES THE U.S. WILL SUPPORT APPOINTMENT IN THE SECRETARIAT OF A "FACILITATION COORDINATOR"-- PROBABLY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, BUT DIRECTOR OF PTC IS ALSO POSSIBLE. FACILITATION COORDINATOR, AS CLAWSON ENVISAGES IT, WOULD UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS WHICH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CCC AND NATIONAL FACILITATION BODIES  
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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05287 251428Z

AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH TRADE FACILITATION.

-- FIRST, IDENTIFY IN THE WORK PROGRAMS OF ALL OF OUR COMMITTEES THOSE ITEMS THAT IMPACT ON THE FACILITATION AND HARMONIZATION OF TRADE DOCUMENTATION;

-- SECOND, COORDINATE THOSE ITEMS IN A POSITIVE MANNER WITH THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN IN OTHER FORUMS. THIS COORDINATION SHOULD BE MORE THAN MERELY REPORTING, BUT SHOULD INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS FOR POSITIVE ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS;

- THIRD, PROVIDE SOME MECHANISM FOR A MORE SYSTEMATIC COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL FACILITATION BODIES THAT INCLUDES SOLICITATION OF THEIR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS.

4. CLAWSON WELCOMES COMMENTS OR FURTHER SUGGESTIONS.  
RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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